

Application No.: 10/777,910

Docket No.: JCLA11460

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding nonfinal Office Action mailed July 27, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Present Status of Patent Application

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 4, 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b), as being anticipated by Jacob (US 4,574, 247). Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 remain pending in the present application. More specifically, claims 1 and 5 are canceled; and claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 are directly amended. These amendments and additions are specifically described hereinafter. It is believed that the foregoing amendments and additions add no new matter to the present application.

Response To Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102(b)

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 1, 4, 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacob (US 4,574,247).

Initially, it is noted with great appreciation that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 as being allowable over the art of record if rewritten to include all of the features of the base claim. In response thereto, new independent claims 2 and 6 have been amended to include the features/limitations of original independent claims 1 and 5 respectively, and claims 3 and 7 have been amended to be dependent on the new independent claims 2 and 6

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respectively. Applicants believe that these amendments place the claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 in condition for allowance.

Secondly, as noted above, claims 1 and 5 have been canceled and been included into claims 2 and 6 respectively to make the allowable subject matter novel over the prior art. Applicants further amend claims 4 and 8 to include the features of allowable claims 2 and 6 respectively, rendering the Examiner's prior art rejections of claims 4 and 8 moot, and placing these claims in prima facie condition for allowance. Thus, claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 are in prima facie condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

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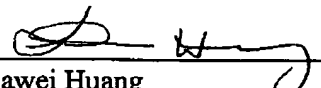
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated. It is believed that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,
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